

been privately arranged; whether the Alliance members will strive to hold the balance of power, or whether the Republicans will give their ballots for the Democrats who, in their opinion, will do their party the greatest amount of good—all these are questions which are full of suggestion and which may yet have to be settled.

One thing, however, is certain. The speaker of the next house, when finally elected, must approach the framing of his committee with fear and trembling. He will be confronted, first of all, with the precedent which has been an unwritten law, and which, if followed, will be binding at the head of the committee in the next conference. Democratic who stood in the minority on that committee during Speaker Reed's dispensation. To obey this law will be to give the chairmanships of about forty out of the fifty-six committees to southern men and to risk the cry of sectionalism. To do the contrary, there will be no end of friction, for those whose long service, experience, ability and position entitle them to recognition will not be superseded without a protest.

The situation is not only interesting, but it is important as well in the compass which is now so near at hand. The present elections, too, are novel. Heretofore, when the house was in the hands of the Democrats, so many of the latter came from the south that the personnel of the chairmanships was a matter of no particular little concern to the rest of the party. This year the situation is different. There will be no Democrats in the next house. Of this number 121 will come from north of Mason and Dixon's line and 117 from south of it, including the Farmers' Alliance men from Georgia and Mississippi. For the first time in the history of the Democratic party the northern Democrats have it in their power to outvote their southern colleagues. This superiority, however, is only in point of numbers. The southern Democrats returned year after year by satisfied constituents, have become versed in politics and have achieved parliamentary form and have achieved the status and standing which come only with years of congressional life. As Representative Cummings has shown in some interesting statistics, the 117 southern Democrats in the next house will represent 500 years of service, while the 121 northern Democrats have had an experience of less than 100 years.

The situation of chairmanships complicates the situation to a perplexing degree.

Ordinarily, the selection of the clerk, doorkeeper, sergeant-at-arms, and postmaster are principal factors of doubt in the choice of a speaker, but this year the influence played by these officers is comparatively insignificant. For instance, if Mr. Mills should be elected speaker, he could not assign five or six important committees to his state, and his advancement, therefore, would mean the retirement of either Mr. Cuthbertson, Mr. Crain, Mr. Sayre, or Mr. Linnihan, and perhaps others, whom, despite their limited ability and their right to demand recognition. If Mr. Crisp is selected, what becomes of Mr. Blount and Mr. Turner? They are also to be relegated to the rear! Mr. Hatch is similarly situated. In his delegation are Mr. Avery, who wants to be on the appropriate committee; Mr. Bland, who will fight vigorously for the chairmanship of the campaign committee; Mr. Heard, who would like to be at the head of the district committee; Mr. O'Neill, who looks forward to the chairmanship of the labor committee; and Mr. Miller, who, like Mr. Kinsler, the ranking member of the committee on claims. Mr. Bryan's interests jeopardize those of Mr. Holman, Mr. Browne, and Mr. Shively; Mr. Sprague conflicts with Mr. Lane and two or three other Illinois members, while Mr. McMillin is fortunate in having one colleague, Mr. McEachern, who is entitled to the same consideration, and this honor could be bestowed without exciting criticism.

It has already been mentioned that the fourteen New England Democrats intend to vote against and that they have ready begun to pass resolutions to that effect. This action has provoked such adverse comment that it may not be adhered to. Certainly if the southern or the western members were to solidarity in this manner there would be a loud and prompt expression of indignation. Just what the New Englanders expect to gain by this resolution is difficult to see, especially as they will go down together if they fail to tie themselves to the winging candidate, and they cannot all get chairmanships even if they make a correct diagnosis of the situation.

There was a time when the members of the Democratic party, when internal dissensions were oblique to the tariff. That time has passed. In the place of the tariff, however, is the silver question. Mr. Bland, for one, will see that this issue is pushed to the front in the speakership campaign, and he will be supported by a large number of Democrats who are advised by Mr. Mills. He has, however, advanced his position with this section of the party by his recent speech on silver, and it is more than probable that he will reach his high-water mark on the very first ballot. Mr. Crisp has been encouraged to do this, and the result of his efforts to do so, especially as they will go down together if they fail to tie themselves to the winging candidate, and they cannot all get chairmanships even if they make a correct diagnosis of the situation.

KANSAS SUGAR.

WICHITA, Sept. 30.—During the afternoon Commodore Ramsay was in consultation with Secretary Tracy, and the result, as announced later in the day, was an order for the cruiser "Concord" to proceed immediately to Valparaiso. Secretary Tracy declined absolutely to give the reason for sending the ship back to Chile, and refuses to discuss the case.

THE METHODIST ECUMENICAL.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—Washington Methodists have decided to hold their general conference next week. For the entertainment of the foreign delegates, numbering in all 200, the Methodist church raised a fund of \$15,000, and the greater portion of that sum will be disbursed in payment of hotel bills. All the delegates will be quartered at the best-class hotels, while native representatives are to be cared for in the homes of the local Methodists. In addition to the 200 delegates, there will probably be an unofficial attendance upon the conference not less than 1,000 ministers and laymen of prominence.

In view of the great interest in the conference, the great expense of reception to the delegates, while this is to be the first time that they will be permitted to be entertained at a cost to the conference, it is the general desire to be as hospitable as possible. Mr. Emery has agreed absolutely to give the reason for sending the ship back to Chile, and refuses to discuss the case.

AN EXPRESS ROBBERY.

UTICA, N.Y., Sept. 30.—Special American Express train No. 31, due here at 2:30 a.m. today, was robbed between here and Little Falls. The robber brought the train to a standstill a mile east of this city by applying the air break by means of the valve in the car, and then escaped in the darkness. The agent in charge of the car reported the robbery. As the train was stopped here but briefly, only a part of the story was secured. It seems that the robber burst through the front door of the car, got the fastening off and surprised Moore while at work. He covered Moore with a revolver and ordered him to give up the money. He took those that were valuable, but it is not known how much was taken. One package of \$5,000 was concealed by Moore and was therefore saved.

FAILURES FOR THE QUARTER.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—The business failures of the United States, as reported by R. G. Dun & Co., mercantile agency for the country, were 1,000 in number for the quarter ending Sept. 30, against 1,054 failures for the same quarter of 1890. The liabilities for the 1891 quarter amounted to over \$44,000,000, as against \$35,500,000 in 1890, showing an increase for 1891 of 30% failures and 20% debts. The liabilities for the quarter ending Sept. 30, in the United States numbered \$8,828, with liabilities of \$19,000,000, as against 1,581 failures and \$10,000,000 of liabilities for the three corresponding quarters of 1890.

A SCARCITY OF THRESHERS.

ST. PAUL, Sept. 30.—The demand for threshers continues throughout the northwestern states. The National and Pacific traffic departments are daily in receipt of appeals for help from all along their lines.

ALLIANCE MATTERS.

A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED FOR THE SUB-TREASURY SCHEME.

A Plan to Obviate the Necessity of the Federal Government's Going Into the Loan Business.

The Money to be Furnished by the National Treasury but to be Lent Out by the Several States.

Two More Wheat Circulars Issued From St. Paul—Ignatius Donnelly Advises the Farmers to Hold Grain for Higher Prices—The Alliance Organ of Minnesota Reports Its Former Advice on the Subject—Notes.

WEATHER BULLETIN.
WEATHER BUREAU,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
WICHITA, Kan., Sept. 30, 1891.

Forchette, Wichita and vicinity—Occasional light showers but generally fair and warm followed by cooler Friday.

The highest temperature was 78°, the lowest 58° and the mean 68°, with cloudy weather and occasional sprinkles of rain in the afternoon, brisk south winds and falling barometer.

For the past three years the average temperature for the month of September has been 68°, and for the 30th day 61°.

FRED L. JOHNSON, Observer.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—Forecast until 9 p.m. Friday.

For Kansas—Local rain, brisk and high southerly winds shifting to northerly.

For Missouri—Local rains but fair during the greater portion of the day in eastern portion, cooler Friday, southern winds.

ANOTHER FINANCIAL SCHEME.

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 30.—Thomas M. Norwood, ex-U.S. Senator from Georgia, by invitation of the Atlanta sub-treasurer, spoke here tonight on the financial condition of the nation and the probability that when Congress comes to bring the strip under the jurisdiction of land offices, this burden will be placed on the settlers. Such action would be unjust to the settlers and contrary to the land policy of the government since the people have been taxed heavily for the benefit of the public domain.

The following persons were killed: W. H. Maxwell, foreman of engines; Fireman Clayton Glass and Mrs. Dawey of Kickapoo, Mich.

Those injured are: S. G. Allen and Rebecca Clark Bangor, Mich.; Carlino Reed, Highland, Mich.; Anna M. Johnson, Muskegon, Mich.; Leola Van Kenneworth, Miss.; Mrs. George C. Thompson, Montague, Mich.; F. M. Caldwell, Miss.; George E. Friend, Miss.; Samuel W. Taylor, David G. Friend, Miss.; William W. Conner, William Warner, Harvey Dorn, Philip M. Garrison, Milton Gregory, John W. Tucker, George Marks, William Scotts, Adam C. Mizner, Norman H. Kile, Charles T. Boyce, Stephen E. Payne, Abbott V. Vidal, Valdo Talcott, John P. Ham, John T. Turner, Eleanor Swindler.

INDIAN TERRITORY.

William H. Curtis, Michael H. Culver, Edward V. Howell, John Taylor, Caroline C. Dugan, Anderson Fisher.

OKLAHOMA TERRITORY.

William J. Cameron, Michael Etheredge, Martin Ames, John Dodson, Calvin Dugard, Anderson Fisher.

THE MISSOURI PACIFIC.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—The directors of the Missouri Pacific formally passed the usual dividend today. The effect of the passing of the dividend was a sharp decline in the stock price yesterday.

The price yesterday fell 9 1/2 per cent, but for the close recovered most of the loss, closing only 6 1/2 per cent under yesterday's.

The general list was only temporarily affected by the decline in Missouri Pacific, and weakened only slightly.

George Gould sold this afternoon that the iron mountain company to the Iron Mountain connecting the Missouri Pacific with New Orleans, so that grain can be shipped from that port by way of the Missouri Pacific, would be completed and the cars running on Jan. 1, 1892. Mr. Gould said that vessels carrying cotton required grain for ballast, and would therefore carry it very cheap.

THE CHICAGO GRAIN MARKETS.

CHICAGO, Sept. 30.—The market was strong and high, with an unusually rapid movement of grain.

The price of wheat was 70c per bushel.

The price of corn was 15c per bushel.

The price of oats was 10c per bushel.

The price of barley was 12c per bushel.

The price of rye was 12c per bushel.

The price of buckwheat was 10c per bushel.